

Candidate Questionnaire Responses  
Federal

January 8, 2020

Question 1	Do you wish to receive the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin?
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	
Chris Bell	Yes.
Amanda Edwards	Yes.
Annie Garcia	Absolutely!
MJ Hegar	Yes, I would be honored to receive this endorsement.
Sema Hernandez	Yes.
Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez	Yes, I wish to receive the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin.
Royce West	Very much. I have long been an ally of the LGBTQIA community and need your help, not only in the primary but in the general election should I be the nominee.
<b>CD-10</b>	
Pritesh Gandhi	Yes, I'm proud to stand for equality.
Shannon Hutcheson	Yes.
Mike Siegel	YES.
<b>CD-17</b>	
David Jaramillo	I would be an honor to receive an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Austin.
<b>CD-21</b>	
Wendy Davis	Yes.
Jennie Lou Leeder	I would be honored to receive the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin.
<b>CD-25</b>	
Julie Oliver	Yes.
Heidi Sloan	The Equality Act includes intersex traits in its prohibition against discrimination based on sex. Gaining final approval of this essential legislation early in the new Congress is the first step after which I will be listening to the community for further recommendations.

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<b>CD-31</b>	
<b>Eric Hanke</b>	Yes, I would be honored to have the Stonewall Democrats of Austin support.
<b>Donna Imam</b>	Yes.
<b>Dan Janjigian</b>	Yes.
<b>CD-35</b>	
<b>Rafael Alcoser</b>	Yes.
<b>Lloyd Doggett</b>	Yes.

<b>Question 2</b>	<b>Should you receive this endorsement, would you publicize our endorsement in your campaign advertisements and campaign literature?</b>
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	
<b>Chris Bell</b>	Yes.
<b>Amanda Edwards</b>	Yes.
<b>Annie Garcia</b>	If I were to receive your endorsement, I would include it on my website, campaign literature and mailers, social media assests, campaign advertisements, and would additionally feature it prominently on WhyCormynSucks.com, a platform I am developing in connection with a 420-mile Protest Pilgrimage I am making across the state of Texas in late February.
<b>MJ Hegar</b>	I would expect to share this endorsement in many of the places listed above, particularly in press and social media.
<b>Sema Hernandez</b>	Yes.
<b>Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez</b>	Yes, we would publicize the endorsement on our website, on social media, and potentially in campaign literature.
<b>Royce West</b>	I absolutely would.
<b>CD-10</b>	
<b>Pritesh Gandhi</b>	Yes, without question.
<b>Shannon Hutcheson</b>	Yes. I would be incredibly proud to have the support of the Stonewall Democrats.

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<b>Mike Siegel</b>	YES.
<b>CD-17</b>	
<b>David Jaramillo</b>	I would be proud to publicize and advertise the endorsement in my campaign literature.
<b>CD-21</b>	
<b>Wendy Davis</b>	Yes
<b>Jennie Lou Leeder</b>	Yes, I would publicize the endorsement in my campaign advertisements, literature and social media.
<b>CD-25</b>	
<b>Julie Oliver</b>	Yes.
<b>Heidi Sloan</b>	The Equality Act includes intersex traits in its prohibition against discrimination based on sex. Gaining final approval of this essential legislation early in the new Congress is the first step after which I will be listening to the community for further recommendations.
<b>CD-31</b>	
<b>Eric Hanke</b>	Yes, I would be proud to do so because it would be a tangible symbol of my values and strong support for the community.
<b>Donna Imam</b>	Yes.
<b>Dan Janjigian</b>	I would.
<b>CD-35</b>	
<b>Rafael Alcoser</b>	Yes, of course.
<b>Lloyd Doggett</b>	Yes.

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<b>Question 3</b>	<b>Please tell us why you are seeking the endorsement of Stonewall? Do you have a history of publicly supporting LGBTQIA+ issues? If so, please briefly describe this history.</b>
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	
<b>Chris Bell</b>	As an attorney, a former Houston City Council Member, and then as a Congressperson, I am a lifelong proponent of LGBTQ+ rights with a proven history of fighting for the rights of individuals. In 2003 the Houston chapter of the Human Rights Campaign awarded me the John Walzel Political Equality Award after I cosponsored the Permanent Partners Immigration Act which offered residency to same-sex partners who were immigrants, with Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee. I also was honored by the 1998 HRC Political Equality Award and the 1999 HRC Black Tie Dinner Political Service Award. LGBTQ+ Equality is and always has been extremely close to my heart, and I will carry that same passion with me to the United States Senate.
<b>Amanda Edwards</b>	As a former Houston City Council Member and ally member of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, I have a record of supporting equality. As a first-time candidate for City Council in 2015, I openly and proudly supported the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) in the face of a mean-spirited disinformation campaign against it. As a candidate for Senate, I am seeking the support of organizations that align with my values.
<b>Annie Garcia</b>	In 2000, I worked on Bill Bradley's presidential campaign as a lead advance. I had the opportunity to create events for two issues I am particularly passionate about - the gun violence epidemic and gay rights. The first one featured families who had lost children in East LA to gun violence, and I had no problem getting approval. For the latter, I took the Senator to the longest surviving gay bar in Des Moines, Iowa, Blazing Saddle. That one was a fight that I ultimately won, and I remember how proud I was of my candidate, as he posed with same-sex families, a boa draped over his shoulders. Unlike gun control, gay rights has made so much progress in the twenty years since that election. But I fear that it can be undone with one Supreme Court case or another 4 years of GOP leadership. Everything is in peril. The rise of homo- and transphobia and a Supreme Court that is so clearly anti-LGBTQ+ (hang on, RBG!) are indications of where this could go. But it's not just that. I would imagine that the LGBTQ+ community is just as concerned with access to quality healthcare, the rise of racism and sexism, the regressive tax structure, the growing wealth distribution disparity, childhood poverty, the GOP-NRA blood pact, and privatization of our public goods, just like I am.

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<b>MJ Hegar</b>	As a longtime ally to the LGBTQIA+ community I have made a point to ensure that I am doing everything I can to lift up their voices and fight for ALL Texans' rights. I served with LGBTQIA+ members of the military (even during DADT), and for those of us who knew the importance of putting the mission first, the only thing that mattered was whether or not you can do the job. That's how it should be in every field, and why we can't allow anyone to be discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. We need LGBTQIA+ voices in more elected offices and in the political process. On both my campaigns, I have had LGBTQIA+ staff members and volunteer leaders – on my House campaign, I was honored to receive an endorsement from the Human Rights Campaign and partnered with volunteers from the organization, many of whom identified as LGBTQIA+.
<b>Sema Hernandez</b>	Inclusiveness is a central part of our campaign platform and policies. I want to ensure the rights of LGBTQ+ community are recognized and protected at a federal level and outlaw all forms of discrimination.
<b>Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez</b>	I am seeking this endorsement because I know that winning statewide in Texas will take all of our communities coming together, including the LGBTQIA+ community. I have led some of our state's most powerful civil rights and voting rights organizations. From that work, I know that movements for labor rights and Latino rights are also fighting for LGBTQIA+ rights– because most people don't just fit into one box. While I was with WDP, much of our budget came from the Catholic Campaign from Human Development, who eventually demanded we pledge not to support marriage equality. I ensured that WDP refused to sign the pledge knowing that we would lose 10% of our budget. In addition, after I founded Jolt, I ensured that we supported the Equality Act and that we screened candidates on questions of LGBTQIA+ equality in consideration of our support. I'll keep supporting the LGBTQIA+ community now for the same reason– because it's the right thing to do.
<b>Royce West</b>	Because of their historic commitment to equality. My proudest recent achievement was helping to kill Lt. Governor Patrick's heinous 'Bathroom Bill'.
<b>CD-10 Pritesh Gandhi</b>	My values closely align with the values of the Stonewall Democrats. I believe that regardless of who you love or how you identify people deserve equality. I treat patients at my community health center everyday who're LGBTQIA+. I see first hand the trauma caused to this community by policies that create barriers or housing, employment, social services, and health care. In Congress, I'm committed to using my voice to lift up members of traditionally disenfranchised communities and ensure their stories are heard by policy makers. Specifically, I have voiced concern publicly about the unequal reporting standards for same sex vs opposite sex sexual activity for minors < 18. Additionally, I have advocated for greater access to primary care for our transgender community.

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<b>Shannon Hutcheson</b>	Years ago, a friend of mine told me that she was transitioning. While I wasn't sure what she needed to hear from me, I told her that she was my friend and that I would support her in every way I could. Recently, she held an event for my campaign. She told the room about her transition, and those, like me, whom she said supported her as a friend, as a woman, as a mother and as a lawyer. I am so proud of my friend. In my own family, my cousin, Bailey, (though she calls me Aunt Shannon) married her wife, Rachel, in Canada. Sadly, much of our Baptist family refused to come. I stood with Bailey and Rachel during their wedding. That is what family should do. Also, for 10 years, I have volunteered with the SAFE Alliance fighting violence in our community. In doing so, I have tried to recognize the unique issues the LGBTQIA+ community faces. In Congress, I hope to continue to be an ally and advocate, working with partners like HRC and Equality Texas.
<b>Mike Siegel</b>	I'm committed to being a powerful ally and advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community in the halls of Congress and would be honored to have the endorsement of Stonewall in the Democratic primary. In particular, the Austin chapter fights for equality on issues that hit close to home, as I have a transgender daughter making her way through Austin public schools. As a teacher and civil rights lawyer, I've fought for LGBTQIA+ students and clients, and I continue this work as a Democratic candidate. In particular, I've been active in lobbying the Austin School District to adopt policies that keep our trans community safe, while opposing hateful attacks from the Texas Lege.
<b>CD-17 David Jaramillo</b>	I am seeking an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats because I am an ally of the LGBTQIA+ community. In the Marine Corps, I was stationed and friends with a number of fellow service members who identified as part of the LGBTQIA+ community. I was often saddened by the discriminatory manner in which they were treated. I was active duty when the "Don't ask, Don't tell" policy was repealed, which was a major step forward for equality. However, we still have a lot of work to do. I find it beyond unacceptable that Texas, and other states, have been able to legally discriminate against LGBTQIA+ people by calling it "religious freedom". I am running in order to publicly stand up for my friends who are LGBTQIA+ when they were being pushed around by others.
<b>CD-21 Wendy Davis</b>	I am committed to equality for all Americans, no matter how they love, how they worship, or what zip code they are born in. On the Fort Worth City Council, I co-sponsored the first city-wide anti-discrimination protections for members of the LGBT community in Texas. I personally intervened and was successful in changing administrative policy to allow adoption of foster children by LGBT parents. My non-profit, Deeds Not Words, has made equity for LGBT persons a center point of advocacy training work. I began my law career advocating for HIV/AIDS clients at the Legal Services Center in Jamaica Plain, MA.

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<b>Jennie Lou Leeder</b>	I don't judge a person by who they love, or what they wear, or what their gender identity is, and neither should our government. Every American deserves equal rights and equal protection under the law. Marriage equality is the law of the land, and will remain rightly so. I support the extension of Title IX protections to LGBTQ students, especially and including transgender students.
<b>CD-25</b>	
<b>Julie Oliver</b>	This fight is personal for me. I was born poor in South Dallas and when I was 11 we moved to a little town called Ovilla – growing up in small-town Texas with an older sister who happened to be gay I witnessed hurt and discrimination first-hand. As the sister of an out gay woman who grew up in small town Texas, I know that LGBTQIA Texans aren't asking for special treatment - just equal treatment, under the law. Congress must act as a check on both the Trump administration's attacks on the LGBTIA community as well as on the Texas legislature. I was proud to call for the passage of the Equality Act in my 2018 campaign, and never shied away from building a team and a campaign of inclusivity and equality.
<b>Heidi Sloan</b>	The Equality Act includes intersex traits in its prohibition against discrimination based on sex. Gaining final approval of this essential legislation early in the new Congress is the first step after which I will be listening to the community for further recommendations.
<b>CD-31</b>	
<b>Eric Hanke</b>	I will be a proud, vocal champion for the LGBTQIA+ community in Congress. I am seeking the endorsement of Stonewall because I believe that it would provide additional validity to my expressed support for the community and I would be honored to highlight the work of the organization as a federal candidate engaging voters across the 31st district. I don't have a long and public history of being actively involved in organizing in support of the LGBTQIA+ community but I have never been shy about expressing my support amongst my community and networks. It was my honor to march in Austin PRIDE this past summer and I plan to do more to give my public support, regardless of how this campaign turns out.
<b>Donna Imam</b>	I am seeking this endorsement because I strongly believe in individuality, equality, and human rights. Yes. I am the only TX31 Congressional Candidate to have the endorsement of Central Texas Pride, Killeen, and I was the only candidate invited to speak at that event in 2019. I was in the Austin Pride Parade.
<b>Dan Janjigian</b>	My entire life, I've grown up surrounded by members of the LGBTQIA. I've had several roommates, and count some of my closest friends as members. Over the recent few years, it's been great to see the tides of change that have swept over the US in terms of laws and recognition that has taken far to long to have come to pass. Everyone should be entitled to be with whom they choose, and should have the same rights afforded to them as any other person.

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<b>CD-35</b>	
<b>Rafael Alcoser</b>	I am seeking the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin, because I share your organization's belief that we must fight against bigotry and intolerance. Like you, I want all of our collective communities to support and vote for Democratic candidates who are committed to defeating homophobia and prejudice.
<b>Lloyd Doggett</b>	We have shared values with a shared commitment to human rights. I serve as a Vice Chair of the House Equality Caucus and have actively supported related legislation. I have a 100% scorecard from the Human Rights Campaign for the last three Congress'.

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<b>Question 4</b>	<b>Would you support the the Equality Act, a law that would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression? Why?</b>
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	
<b>Chris Bell</b>	Yes, I would vote to pass the Equality Act. It is time that we give LGBTQ+ neighbors and family members explicit protections under federal law. Having been awarded the HRC Political Equality Award (later renamed the John Wazel award) twice and awarded the HRC Political Service award, I take the issue of LGBTQ+ equality extremely seriously.
<b>Amanda Edwards</b>	Yes. I oppose discrimination in all its forms. As a member of a marginalized community, I cannot stand by as others are marginalized.
<b>Annie Garcia</b>	Absolutely. We need to go beyond merely allowing people to love whomever they choose, but to actually enforce all the rights that inure to them from that acceptance. Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression is increasing, and denying anyone the right to live a self-sufficient life that every human should be entitled to is dehumanizing and morally bankrupt. I will fight for the rights of all people to be treated equally and justly, regardless of sexual orientation, gender/identity, race, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, legal status, age and all the other ways Texans are disenfranchised and oppressed.
<b>MJ Hegar</b>	I strongly support legislation, including the Equality Act, to extend or secure critical civil rights protections for LGBTQIA+ Americans in employment, housing, public spaces and services, credit, education, and federally funding programs.
<b>Sema Hernandez</b>	Yes. The prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sex or gender is not uniformly interpreted by courts to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex stereotypes, thereby denying LGBTQi+ individuals the ability to enforce their rights under the Constitution. I support the Equality Act because it resolves this intrpretation issue to include those forms of discrimination and ensures that the constitutional rights of LGBTQi+ persons will be enforced equally with those of all other persons.
<b>Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez</b>	Yes, I would absolutely support the Equality Act, as well as other pieces of legislation like the Safe Schools Improvement Act. I would do so because just like we've outlawed discrimination based on where we comes from or what we look like, we should also outlaw discrimination based on who we love or how we identify. We've come a long way in our work towards LGBTQ+ equality, but I also know we have a long way to go. I'll be there in the fight to protect th community from discrimination in housing, employment, education, and at the voting booth.
<b>Royce West</b>	I would. I could go though and give you a list which includes hundreds of reasons, but the best is because it's the right thing to do. This is about basic fairness and making sure people can be themselves without fear of losing their employment or home.

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<b>CD-10</b>	
<b>Pritesh Gandhi</b>	Yes. The Equality Act passed the House in 2019, but, like most Progressive legislation died in Mitch McConnell's Senate. In 2021 I will join the bipartisan group of co-sponsors to pass it through the house, once again, and use my voice to urge the Senate to bring it up for a vote. Supporting the Equality Act is the moral thing to do. Full stop.
<b>Shannon Hutcheson</b>	Yes, I would support the Equality Act. As a lawyer, I have long insisted that my clients include sexual orientation, gender identity or expression in their anti-discrimination policies. It sickens me that the US Court of Appeals here held in 2019 that sexual orientation is not protected under Title VII. Now, this issue is before the Supreme Court. Congress is the last backstop. And, the Senate must pass the Equality Act that was passed out of House. ALL people deserve respect, protection, and security at work, in their home, and in the world at large.
<b>Mike Siegel</b>	Yes. The Equality Act is one of the strongest steps we can take to affirmatively guarantee equality, short of amending the U.S. Constitution to add orientation, identity and expression to the list of federally-protected classes. Every person deserves human dignity, and every person deserves equality and opportunity. We must reform federal law to give every person a fair shot.
<b>CD-17</b>	
<b>David Jaramillo</b>	I would fully support the Equality Act. I do not believe that anyone has the right to discriminate against others, no matter what they believe or agree with. People should not be bullied because a few close minded people are in power.
<b>CD-21</b>	
<b>Wendy Davis</b>	Yes, I am proud to have done significant work on this issue at both the local and state level.
<b>Jennie Lou Leeder</b>	Yes, I do support the Equality Act. Every person deserves the same opportunity for employment, housing and public accommodations. Decisions should not be made by use of discriminating practices. Only hard facts that directly relate to the situation, such as education, ability to pay the rent, and work experience should be considered.
<b>CD-25</b>	
<b>Julie Oliver</b>	Yes. Same-sex couples are entitled to access the same federal benefits as any other Texas family, and we should protect people from discrimination in every aspect of public life. LGBTQIA+ Americans are entitled to full federal equality. Discrimination is an urgent issue in Texas, and Congress must act as a check on state legislators who pass unconstitutional laws. Every American must be treated equally under the law, and everyone is entitled to dignity, respect, and safety.
<b>Heidi Sloan</b>	The Equality Act includes intersex traits in its prohibition against discrimination based on sex. Gaining final approval of this essential legislation early in the new Congress is the first step after which I will be listening to the community for further recommendations.
<b>CD-31</b>	
<b>Eric Hanke</b>	Yes. I stand firmly against discrimination of any kind.

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<b>Donna Imam</b>	Yes. I believe in equality of all human beings.
<b>Dan Janjigian</b>	Absolutely, because it's expressly called for in the Constitution, and it's morally and ethically right.
<b>CD-35</b>	
<b>Rafael Alcoser</b>	Yes, I would support the Equality Act and will work tirelessly to try and ensure its passage. Several decades ago, America made waves in passing the Civil Rights Act, but unfortunately left many of our communities behind. I will lead the charge in Congress to make sure ALL Americans have these protections.
<b>Lloyd Doggett</b>	I am an original sponsor of this important bill which passed the House earlier this year with my strong support. No American should be denied housing, the ability to attend school or secure a job, or to serve on a jury because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

<b>Question 5</b>	<b>Would you voluntarily adopt a written policy for the employees of your office indicating that sexual orientation or gender identity or expression would not be a factor in employment decisions regarding them?</b>
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	
<b>Chris Bell</b>	Yes, absolutely.
<b>Amanda Edwards</b>	Yes.
<b>Annie Garcia</b>	I will not tolerate intolerance or the treatment of any person as less than any other, and will treat all people with dignity and grace. I will not tolerate anything else for anybody who works for me or represents me, and will make this clear by promulgating a contract with all my employees and contractors, which they must sign if they wish to be employed by or do business with me.
<b>MJ Hegar</b>	Absolutely. It is important to me that my staff reflect Texas' great diversity in all senses, including in gender expression and sexual orientation. I will make sure that our hiring and employment policies, in writing and in practice, are gender-inclusive and LGBTQIA+-friendly.
<b>Sema Hernandez</b>	Yes. I would also vote to overturn "Right-To-Work" laws.
<b>Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez</b>	Yes, absolutely. I will adopt any policy that would protect my employees from discriminatory employment decisions.
<b>Royce West</b>	I would.

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<b>CD-10</b>	
<b>Pritesh Gandhi</b>	Yes. In fact, our campaign already does! Below is a passage from the EEO section of our employee handbook. "It is the policy of the Organization to provide equal employment opportunities to all employees and employment applicants without regard to unlawful considerations of race, religion, creed, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ancestry, physical or mental disability, genetic information, or marital status."
<b>Shannon Hutcheson</b>	Yes. As I said above, I have long insisted that my clients adopt such a policy. And, my campaign has such a policy in place.
<b>Mike Siegel</b>	Yes.
<b>CD-17</b>	
<b>David Jaramillo</b>	Yes, we would not discriminate and would make sure that policy was well-advertised to applicants.
<b>CD-21</b>	
<b>Wendy Davis</b>	Yes.
<b>Jennie Lou Leeder</b>	Yes, I would voluntarily adopt a written policy for all employees that treats all equally. Discrimination due to sexual orientation, gender identity or expression would not be allowed in my office.
<b>CD-25</b>	
<b>Julie Oliver</b>	Yes. In fact, this is already our campaign's official, written policy.
<b>Heidi Sloan</b>	The Equality Act includes intersex traits in its prohibition against discrimination based on sex. Gaining final approval of this essential legislation early in the new Congress is the first step after which I will be listening to the community for further recommendations.

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<b>CD-31</b>	<p><b>Eric Hanke</b> Yes. In addition , these provisions are included in our campaign's employee handbook. It reads: "It is the policy of the Organization to provide equal employment opportunities to all employees and employment applicants without regard to considerations of race, religion, creed, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ancestry, physical or mental disability, genetic information, marital status or any other additional classification protected by applicable local, state or federal laws. This policy prohibits discrimination based on the perception that anyone has any of those characteristics or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics. This policy applies to all aspects of employment, including, but not limited to, hiring, job assignment, working conditions, compensation, promotion, benefits, scheduling, training, discipline and termination. The Organization expects all employees to support our equal employment opportunity policy, and to take all steps necessary to maintain a workplace free from discrimination and harassment and to accommodate others in line with this policy to the fullest extent required by law. For example, the Organization will make reasonable accommodations/or employees' observance of religious holidays and practices. If you desire a religious accommodation, you are required to make the request in writing to your manager as far in advance as possible. "</p> <p><b>Donna Imam</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Dan Janjigian</b> Absolutely.</p>
<b>CD-35</b>	<p><b>Rafael Alcoser</b> This should not have to be a question, but unfortunately it is. I would most definitely adopt such a policy, and would even welcome organizations such as Stonewall Dems to help craft the policies.</p> <p><b>Lloyd Doggett</b> Yes, I have long ago adopted and fully implemented this policy.</p>

<b>Question 6</b>	<b>Do you think federal funds should go to support religious or charitable organizations that discriminate in their hiring or provision of services against individuals on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression?</b>
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	<p><b>Chris Bell</b> No, I do not believe federal funds should go to such organizations.</p> <p><b>Amanda Edwards</b> No.</p>

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<b>Annie Garcia</b>	I do not think taxpayer dollars should support any organization whose mission or whose actions taken in support of that mission discriminate in the hiring provision of services on the basis of race, gender/identity, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, legal status, age and all the other ways Texans are disenfranchised and oppressed.
<b>MJ Hegar</b>	My values are very clear – that discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity is wrong – which is why I support the Equality Act's civil rights protections for LGBTQIA+s individuals and believe they should apply to religious and charitable organizations. I know many people of faith share these values, including the numerous religious organizations and faith-based charities which have endorsed the Equality Act.
<b>Sema Hernandez</b>	No. Not one penny.
<b>Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez</b>	No, I don't believe we should send federal funds to organizations that take such actions. Not only is it wrong on principal, but the consequences have been enormous in states like Texas where similar laws have been on the books for years. I know what that's done in states like Texas, where religious exemption laws have made it possible for potential foster and adoptive parents to be turned away based on their LGBTQIA+ identity. We know that this hurts not only the potential parents, but it also hurts the children who are prevented from finding a safe and loving home due to discrimination.
<b>Royce West</b>	No, I don't.
<b>CD-10</b>	
<b>Pritesh Gandhi</b>	No.
<b>Shannon Hutcheson</b>	No. Again, I have long refused to support organizations that discriminate against individuals based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. And, I certainly do not think US government funds should be used in any way to support discrimination or organizations that engage in it.
<b>Mike Siegel</b>	No.
<b>CD-17</b>	
<b>David Jaramillo</b>	Federal funds should not go to any organization that discriminates based on sexual orientation, religious affiliation, gender identity, or race.
<b>CD-21</b>	
<b>Wendy Davis</b>	No.
<b>Jennie Lou Leeder</b>	No, I do not believe that federal funds should be available to any religious or charitable organization or any other organization that discriminates against LGBTQIA+.

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<b>CD-25</b>	<p><b>Julie Oliver</b> I do not. And as part of my anti-corruption platform, we're fighting any attempt to repeal the Johnson amendment, and ending the corrupting influence of anti-LGBTQ groups like the Family Research Council through the most aggressive anti-corruption platform of any candidate in Texas.</p> <p><b>Heidi Sloan</b> The Equality Act includes intersex traits in its prohibition against discrimination based on sex. Gaining final approval of this essential legislation early in the new Congress is the first step after which I will be listening to the community for further recommendations.</p>
<b>CD-31</b>	<p><b>Eric Hanke</b> No.</p> <p><b>Donna Imam</b> Federal funds should not go to support any religious organizations. Federal funds should not go to support any organization if they discriminate in their hiring or provision of services against individuals on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.</p> <p><b>Dan Janjigian</b> Any organization has the right to support or not support whomever they choose. That's their constitutional right. That being said, organizations that discriminate should not be given federal funds if they don't abide by the the constitution or federal law.</p>
<b>CD-35</b>	<p><b>Rafael Alcoser</b> I do not think federal funds should go to ANY organization, religious, charitable or otherwise, that discriminates in ANY way in their hiring or provision of services. Furthermore, I do not believe that any organization that discriminate in these areas should be allowed federal tax exempt status, irregardless of whether they receive federal funding.</p> <p><b>Lloyd Doggett</b> No.</p>

<b>Question 7</b>	<b>Would you support increased federal funding for AIDS prevention and treatment?</b>
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	<p><b>Chris Bell</b> Yes, I would sponsor or co-sponsor legislation to increase federal funding for AIDS prevention and treatment.</p> <p><b>Amanda Edwards</b> Yes. As a City Council Member, I supported increases to HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, among other things.</p>

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<b>Annie Garcia</b>	We are at a critical juncture in the fight against HIV/AIDS, one that, surreally, President Trump seems to want to take a victory lap for ending while not taking the additional step of making PrEP available. Yes, HIV transmission cases in Texas have seemingly plateaued across most (but not all) communities, but if the federal government is serious about ending the plague of HIV/AIDS for good, PrEP should be universally available and could be administered through an expansion of the Ryan White funding and HIV/AIDS treatment programs.
<b>MJ Hegar</b>	I will strongly support full and adequate funding for federal agencies and programs that fund HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.
<b>Sema Hernandez</b>	Yes. I would also support Medicare For All S. 1129
<b>Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez</b>	Yes. In particular, I would support reversing cuts to the federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS program immediately upon entering the Senate. This is a public health issue– and in Texas in particular, we have a very high rate of new HIV infections, especially among men of color. Additionally, I'll fight for true universal healthcare so that we don't need programs to supplement private insurance or to cover costs for the uninsured since everyone would have high-quality health insurance. I'll work to ensure that no HIV/AIDS patient is ever left without the care and community resources that they deserve.
<b>Royce West</b> <b>CD-10</b>	Yes, and I have done so in the Texas Senate.
<b>Pritesh Gandhi</b>	Yes. As a physician at a community health center I have first hand experience treating HIV+ patients. I'm committed to doing everything we can treat and prevent AIDS – increased federal funding is a must.
<b>Shannon Hutcheson</b>	Yes. While funding has increased exponentially since the 1980s, the discretionary funding from Congress has stayed relatively flat in the last several years. But, that funding is incredibly important to ensure prevention and treatment medication and education are available worldwide. We have made so much progress; we can't and won't go back.
<b>Mike Siegel</b> <b>CD-17</b>	Yes.
<b>David Jaramillo</b>	I would support increase in federal funding for AIDS prevention and treatment.
<b>Wendy Davis</b> <b>CD-21</b>	Yes.
<b>Jennie Lou Leeder</b>	Yes, funding should be increased for AIDS prevention and treatment. I also believe that prescription prices for AIDS prevention medication should be reduced to affordable rates.

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<b>CD-25</b>	<p><b>Julie Oliver</b> Yes – we need to fully fund the National Institute of Health so that it can invest even more in dedicated HIV and AIDS research to promote treatment advances, prevention efforts, and attempts to identify a vaccine and a cure. And in order to end this epidemic once and for all we have to use every single tool we can. That includes holding drug companies accountable and lowering drug prices, funding community health centers, tackling the housing crisis, overturning HIV-status criminalization and laws that discriminate against those who have AIDS or HIV, and ensuring that as part of our commitment to both world-class healthcare and education in this country we include comprehensive, inclusive reproductive and sexual health education and services.</p> <p><b>Heidi Sloan</b> The Equality Act includes intersex traits in its prohibition against discrimination based on sex. Gaining final approval of this essential legislation early in the new Congress is the first step after which I will be listening to the community for further recommendations.</p>
<b>CD-31</b>	<p><b>Eric Hanke</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Donna Imam</b> Yes. I am the only candidate in TX31 with a comprehensive healthcare plan that will ensure all Americans will be guaranteed healthcare and prescription drug coverage.</p> <p><b>Dan Janjigian</b> 100%</p>
<b>CD-35</b>	<p><b>Rafael Alcoser</b> Yes. The US should lead the way in innovative medicine to not only treat and prevent HIV/AIDS, but to irradiate it.</p> <p><b>Lloyd Doggett</b> Yes, I have worked with Treatment Action Group, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Housing Works, and PrEP4All Collaboration on addressing prescription price gouging, especially to secure fair prices for drugs developed with taxpayer funding. I have also supported the efforts of PrEP4All against Gilead, which has jeopardized health in its pursuit of extended monopoly power.</p>

<b>Question 8</b>	<b>If elected, what concrete actions would you take to support the Intersex community?</b>
<b>U.S. Senate</b> <b>Chris Bell</b>	I would support legislation designed to curb LGBTQ+ discrimination in schools, including intersex individuals, such as anti-bullying laws, gender identity laws, and student anti-discrimination laws. I would also support legislation that would provide funding for curricular and extracurricular support programs for LGBTQ+ students, including intersex individuals. I would also sponsor or cosponsor legislation making it illegal to discriminate against intersex individuals in the workplace or in adopting or providing foster care.

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<b>Amanda Edwards</b>	I would work to educate myself and others on the needs of the Intersex community; I would work to standardize intersex-inclusive language in federal policies, forms, etc; and I would work to outlaw unnecessary genital surgeries on intersex children.
<b>Annie Garcia</b>	Just like another other person, intersex people are just as worthy of acceptance, love, and autonomy as anyone else. As such, discrimination based on intersex is unacceptable and should be roundly condemned, followed by actions to enforce equal treatment of all people. Further, intersex people should be allowed to determine their own sexual and gender identification, in a world that is increasingly more aware of the fluidity of both. To make this decision for an individual contravenes a doctor's Hippocratic oath to do no harm, and a person's right to make this decision for herself, himself, or themselves should be protected by law.
<b>MJ Hegar</b>	Intersex Americans deserve equal rights and protections under the law, and I will support their right to make choices that protect their bodily autonomy, mental health, and physical safety, especially when it comes to health care. As a senator, I hope to have an open channel of communication with members of the intersex community in Texas as well.
<b>Sema Hernandez</b>	If elected I will support legislation to prevent nonconsensual genital surgeries on minors with intersex traits. I will consult with LGBTQi+ community leaders to draft legislation and ensure that laws are codified to protect LGBTQi+ under the 14th Amendment.
<b>Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez</b>	The Intersex community has been ignored and marginalized for far too long. I'll make sure to be a champion for accomplishing equality and equity for Intersex individuals during my time in the Senate. First of all, I would support any legislation that prohibits medically unnecessary surgeries on Intersex children until they are old enough to consent. In addition, I would fight to ensure that federal laws acknowledge that discrimination against the Intersex community is discrimination on the basis of sex, so that federal anti-discrimination protections apply to the Intersex community, too.
<b>Royce West</b>	The one thing that disturbs me most is what has been described to me as 'genital correction surgery'. I want to work with others in the Senate to ban this practice at the Federal level.
<b>CD-10 Pritesh Gandhi</b>	1. Increase federal funding in concert with goals outlined by interACT as written in this document: <a href="https://interactadvocates.org/intersex-medical-policy-and-research/">https://interactadvocates.org/intersex-medical-policy-and-research/</a> 2. Fight against sex discrimination by specifically outlining intersex traits in any discriminatory statutes.

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<b>Shannon Hutcheson</b>	We are blessed in the Austin community to have Alicia Weigel here to educate us all about the issues facing the Intersex community here and across the US. If you haven't listened to her testimony against the "bathroom bill" before the Texas Legislature, I highly recommend it. I wept and I cheered, all in her two-minute speech. I think the first thing we all must do vis-a-vis any marginalized community is listen. Listen to the issues that are important to them. Listen to what we can do to increase awareness and acceptance. And, do everything we can to be an ally and a champion. After all, isn't that what each of us need and deserve?
<b>Mike Siegel</b>	I will fight to ban medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children, as well as conversion therapy, bathroom bills, and other harmful efforts to impose gender identity or sexual orientation. I will fight to pass the Equality Act, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act, and the LGBT Elder Americans Act. I will fight any attempt to ban LGBTQIA+ people from military service. I will fight for Medicare for All. I will fight for funding for comprehensive, accurate, and inclusive K-12 sex education. I will fight for increased federal investigations and enforcement re: anti LGBTQIA+ discrimination.
<b>CD-17</b> <b>David Jaramillo</b>	If elected, I would pass legislation mandating that intersex individuals be allowed to choose what gender identity they will express when they are able to do so. A doctor should not choose for them. I would move to pass legislation not to be able to discriminate against LGBTQIA+ individuals, particularly by eliminating loopholes that allow discrimination based on "religion freedom."
<b>CD-21</b> <b>Wendy Davis</b>	The mission of the non-profit I founded in 2015, Deeds Not Words, is to elevate the voices of young women, girls, and youth of all genders. Deeds trains young women and men to advocate for change. Their work has centered on advocating for sexual assault survivors, reproductive rights, trans rights, and immigration. Deeds not Words recently organized with trans and intersex advocates against a discriminatory bathroom bill. I would continue my work to raise awareness, increase visibility, and organize for intersex rights.
<b>Jennie Lou Leeder</b>	I would support H.R.5 and continue to work to see it implemented. I do not judge a person by who they love, or what they wear, or what their gender identity is, and neither should our government. Every American deserves equal rights and equal protection under the law. Marriage equality is the law of the land, and will remain rightly so. In addition, I support the extension of Title IX protections to LGBTQ students, especially and including transgender students.

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<b>CD-25</b>	<p><b>Julie Oliver</b> Intersex and transgender children should have a say in their health care, including the deferral of all non-emergent medical procedures – especially when it comes to decisions that affect whether their bodies match their gender identity. LGBTQ+ people should receive safe, affirming care from all providers. That means covering all medically necessary care for LGBTQ+ patients under Medicare for All, and allowing providers the discretion to deem gender-affirming procedures as medically necessary based on a professional assessment. In Congress, we need to immediately invalidate the Trump administration’s dangerous proposed HHS rule to allow discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in health care.</p> <p><b>Heidi Sloan</b> The Equality Act includes intersex traits in its prohibition against discrimination based on sex. Gaining final approval of this essential legislation early in the new Congress is the first step after which I will be listening to the community for further recommendations.</p>
<b>CD-31</b>	<p><b>Eric Hanke</b> I would seek to codify the individual agency and body autonomy of intersex individuals; no one should be exposed to medical treatment unless and until they are able to understand and consent to that treatment. In addition, I would seek to pass legislation to compel the medical community against treating intersex traits as a defect or disorder, and use my bully-pulpit to do so amongst the general public.</p> <p><b>Donna Imam</b> Yes. The Intersex community should be given the same protections as any other protected class.</p> <p><b>Dan Janjigian</b> One of the issues that caused me to run for office was the Texas House resolution that allowed for the firing of Transgender employees based solely on an employer choosing to do so based on their sexual orientations. This is a ridiculous bill that should be removed immediately as it's, in my opinion, unlawful. It's one of the first things I'd want to see removed. The world has moved forward in very positive ways for this community and anything that reverses that movement is a step in the wrong direction.</p>
<b>CD-35</b>	<p><b>Rafael Alcoser</b> Once elected, I would focus on passage of the Equality Act. I will also work with, and if need be, apply pressure on, local and state authorities to enact harsher punishment for hate crimes against the LGBTQIA community.</p> <p><b>Lloyd Doggett</b> The Equality Act includes intersex traits in its prohibition against discrimination based on sex. Gaining final approval of this essential legislation early in the new Congress is the first step after which I will be listening to the community for further recommendations.</p>